49

To all the

BABES IN CHRIST,

And

CHILDREN of LIGHT,

Who are young in the Truth, and but of late convinced of it.

A TENDER

SALUTATION,

And

EXHORTATION,

By your dear Brother

JOSIAH COALE.

Printed in the Year, 1664.

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MAY 2 1935

MY beloved Friends, Babes, and Lambs of Christ, with whom I have travelled, for the bringing forth of the Birth which is immortal, and which is the right heir of the everlasting kingdome of God, and for the redemption and freedome of the seed which is incorruptible, from under the dark power, where it hath been held, and lain in bondage, and in captivity, that it might come forth into its freedome, and glorious liberty, to serve the Lord, and to sacrifice in righteousnesse unto him; I say, for the redemption and freedome thereof, have we laboured and travelled together, whom the Lord sent forth amongst you, in his own name, and power, and authority, and therein, and therewith have we reached unto you, and the Spirit of life from God through us hath breathed upon the slain in you, and entred into the witnesse, and raised the dead incorruptible; and now the dead being raised in you, and the living, true, and faithful witnesse being felt by you, wait every one, that thereby you may come to be changed, and wholly translated, that you may become wholly a right seed, that as touching your former conversation, the old man may be put off, and you may be wholly made conformable unto the death and sufferings of Christ, that so you may live with him, and live to God through him, and that you may be redeemed from the vain conversation of the world, and fashioned (according to the working of his power) like unto the Son of God: that as you have borne the image of the earthly, and been made conformable unto the fashions and customes of this present sinful world; so henceforth you may bear the image of the heavenly, and be made conformable or subject unto the working or operation of the heavenly divine power of God, with which he hath reached unto you, and visited you, that in all things our Lord Christ may be your example, who made himself of no reputation, but humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Crosse, and is sate down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, making intercession for them that come unto God by

him, and ſo is become the Authour of eternal ſalvation unto all them that believe and obey him, that he in all things may have the preheminence. And ſo my dear Friends, as I ſaid unto you, let him be your example to walk by, of whoſe Spirit you have received a meaſure, to be a Guide, Rule, and Counſellour unto you, and none vary from the leadings thereof in any wiſe, nor by any means, for then you wander, or go into darkneſſe, and ſo loſe your way of peace, and then trouble will come in upon you, and deſperation will be ready to get up in your minds; or contrariwiſe a ſpirit of conceitedneſſe will carry away the mind into a motion or profeſſion of the truth, out of the life of it, and will lead thee to talk of former experiences, when thou haſt loſt the thing by and through which thou gaineſt that experience which thou once hadſt, and which thou now talks of, and ſo thou wilt grow into a form and profeſſion of truth, without the power and life of it, and this is not a ſacrifice acceptable or agreeable unto the mind of God, but contrariwiſe altogether diſagreeable unto his mind and holy Spirit, and his ſoul hates it, and hath no pleaſure therein. Wherefore my dear Friends, dwell and watch in the light of the Son of God, unto which, from the darkneſſe you have been turned, that therein every one may be kept in a true and clear ſence, and diſcerning of his own preſent ſtate, and ſtanding, and there the power of God is felt, which goes over that which would drive into unbelief or deſperation, in the time of trouble. And this ſame power of God will alſo keep down the aſpiring mind, that would be exalted above the Croſſe, and would intrude into things which is not revealed of God, and would be puft up therewith, and glory therein, all ſuch glorying is vain. And this is the enemy that would not have Chriſt to reign over him, neither will it be ſubject to the higher Power, but will deſpiſe the authority of God, and ſpeak evil of dignities. And this muſt be ſlain; for this ſpirit hath not the mind of Chriſt, neither would walk as Chriſt did, nor have him for its example, but would be of reputation in the world, and ſeeks the praiſe of men, and the honour of men, and not the honour that comes from God only; and whatſoever

ver pretence or shew of humility his spirit comes under, yet it seeks it self, and its own reputation, and will admire mens persons for its advantage, and will justifie the wicked for reward (or for its advantage, or to set up and exalt it self, and will cry peace to the wicked and ungodly, and preach judgement to the righteous. And this is the temper of that unrighteous, exalted, self-seeking spirit, where, or in whomsoever it gets an entrance, as hath been largely made manifest, and as by woful experience we have seen. Wherefore beware of that spirit, and receive it not, but deny it, for it is not of God, but shall fall and wither, and come to nought, the Lord hath spoken it. Wherefore dwell every one in true subjection to the Crosse, and see that your joy and rejoycing be in that, for therein alone is your safety, and there you learn of Christ, and have (and feel) the teachings of his good spirit, and this keeps in the true humility which goeth before the true honour, and in this you are sensible of the prosperity, or going on of the work of God in you; and here you will know a daily weakning of the strength and power of the wicked one, whose work is to lead or drive out of the straight, pure, and holy way (into which God hath brought you) which leads unto life, and so diverting you from this, he then leads or drives into exaltation, or desperation, both which leads to the chambers of death; But as you all wait in the true simplicity, and in obedience to the word of Gods power in your own hearts, you will be kept clean in your understandings; for as said the Apostle, *He that heareth the word of God, and doth it not, is like unto a man that beholds his natural face in a glasse, and straightway goeth his way and forgetteth what manner of man he was.* But be not you forgetful hearers, but doers of the word, & let it dwell plentifully in you, so will you be kept sensible of your state & condition; but if you go from that, then you lose your sence & understanding that you had before of the manner of your state, & then deadnesse will grow, & carelesnes & negligence, & thou wilt become dry & barren, & unfruitful; & so my dear hearts having large experience, & being largely sencible of the many wiles, subtilties, and craftinesses of the wicked one, I cannot do lesse (for the

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loves sake which I bear in my heart towards you) then to lay these things before you, and to remind you of them, although you have been told of them before, yet as the Apostle said, I think it meet, (yea, and it is my duty so to do) while I remain in this Tabernacle, to remind you of these things; and according to the working of the power of God, and word of life, to stirre you up to watchfulnesse, diligence, and obedience, knowing that therein your preservation and safety consisteth: So dwell and watch in the light, and in the sense and feeling of Gods eternal quickning spirit of life, and in simplicity, and true subjection thereunto, and there all the snares of the wicked one will be discovered to thee, and a way seen to escape them all, so that none will fall therein, but be kept by the power of God, in the even, pure, straight, and holy way, which is narrow and leads to life eternal; and herein is no exaltation nor desperation, nor deadness, nor dulness of spirit, but a diligent and patient waiting upon the Lord, to receive his Counsels and Instructions, in all states, straits, and tryals whatsoever, that may come upon thee for the tryal of thy faith, which is much more pretious then that of gold which perisheth.

And Friends, be nothing terrified, nor yet dismayed at the prosperity, rage, or fury of the wicked, for they have their day, and their consolation here, and when that is over, (as *David* said) they shall be cut off, for their feet are set in slippery places, and their Rock is not as our Rock, they themselves may be Judges, but wait you upon the Lord, for the manifestation of his will, and give up your selves to do or suffer whatsoever he calls you unto, and be you resigned up to be wholly disposed of according to the ordering of his Hand of Love, or Arm of Power, manifested in his Covenant of Light, and follow the Lord Christ your Captain, whithersoever he leads you, not loving your lives unto the death, and as valiant Souldiers endure hardships, and continue to the end, looking over and beyond all difficulties that may appear in your way, and keep your eye upon the mark that stands before, and then you will feel forcible drawings in

in your hearts by the ſpirit of the Lord to preſs on towards it, and nothing will be accounted dear to part with for it, nor any thing grievous to be borne or ſuffered, that in the end thou may purchaſe it, but there will be courage & ſtrength ſufficient given thee of the Lord to bear all things, and endure all things, as thou reſignes up thy ſelf unto him, and thou wilt have peace with God in thine own heart and conſcience, in all tryals, and in all tribulations, and in the end thou wilt have the full deſire of thy ſoul, and ſatisfaction to it; and ſo my love is dear to you all, who are Babes in Chriſt, and is largely extended to the whole flock of God in all Countreys, Regions and Quarters of the Earth: But for your ſakes have I chiefly written this Epiſtle, who are young in the Truth, and have not ſo full acquaintance with the workings of Satan, and ſo full a knowledge of the depths of the myſtery of iniquity as others have, who are of a more full age in the truth; and receive this as a Salutation of my dear love to you, & a manifeſtation of my tender care for you, and the Lord God Almighty give you wiſdome and underſtanding, and diſcerning, that you may chuſe the good, and refuſe the evil; and may follow after that above all things, which makes for your everlaſting peace and happineſſe, *Amen.*

Kingſton, the 25. of the 3. Moneth, 1664.

I am your dear Brother in the Tribulation, and Kingdome, and Patience of Jeſus Chriſt.

J. C.

THE END.